

Message

From: Steeger, Thomas [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=0BE1920540054C989A88A535C16212C4-THOMAS STEEGER]
Sent: 1/21/2021 11:06:00 PM
To: Perreault, Peg [Perreault.Peg@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: Weekly Report Item

Peg—another OPP weekly report item that is related to pollinators.

Tom

From: Steeger, Thomas
Sent: Thursday, January 07, 2021 9:02 PM
To: Holmes, Jean <Holmes.Jean@epa.gov>
Cc: Harwood, Douglas (Ethan) <harwood.douglas@epa.gov>
Subject: Weekly Report Item

American Beekeeping Federation (ABF) Conference

Tuesday, January 5 through Thursday, January 7, EFED staff participated in the 2021 ABF Virtual Conference. During the conference there were plenary presentations providing updates on various chemical products used to control Varroa mites (*i.e.*, varroacides), a serious pest of honey bees that is known to vector viral diseases of honey bees, and on research examining the extent of mite resistance to amitraz. Representatives of the almond industry provided updates on almond production and decline in the price of almonds both of which can influence pollination service fees on which many commercial beekeepers depend. Research was presented on pesticides used during almond bloom, the need to more thoroughly evaluate potential risks to bees from such uses and the need for pesticide labels to better reflect acute and chronic toxicity to adult and larval bees. USDA researchers presented on efforts to track pests and diseases in migratory colonies and to determine whether these data are correlated with colony strength/survival. Presentations also included overviews of the Sentinel Apiary Program, a collaborative effort between the Bee Informed Partnership and the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) along with an overview of a report compiled for New York State's pollinator protection program regarding the risks to bees and overall benefits of neonicotinoid-treated seed. For more information, contact Tom Steeger (703 305 5444).

Thomas Steeger, Ph.D.
Senior Science Advisor
Environmental Fate and Effects Division
EPA Office of Pesticide Programs
steeger.thomas@epa.gov